

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export potential of textiles from Powerloom Sector

*561. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), the apex body to promote exports for the powerloom sector, had identified textiles as a major thrust area for export;

(b) whether the bottlenecks for growth of production in the powerloom sector have been identified as poor quality, lack of infrastructure and logistics;

(c) whether delay in shipment is adversely affecting delivery schedules; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to help this vital export sector to grow?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Textiles constitutes approximately one-third of the export earnings of the country and is identified as a major thrust area for exports in the National Textiles Policy-2000. The Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), set up by Government to encourage export in the decentralized powerloom sector, has also recognized the need for a push to powerloom exports.

(b) and (c) The main bottleneck for growth of production in the powerloom sector has been identified as its low level of technology leading to poor quality and poor productivity. Infrastructural issues such as unreliable power supply, high power tariffs, and poor marketing, low inputs of design, low levels of skill and inaccessibility to credit and delay in shipments are other identified bottlenecks.

(d) Government have taken several initiatives to enable the industry to overcome these bottlenecks. These include, *inter-alia*:

- (i) Review and simplification of export procedures
- (ii) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports. In the new quota policy for 2000—2004, the PEE quota has been raised from 10% to 15%;
- (iii) The new textile package announced in this year's Budget aims for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and 2.5 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the powerloom sector, with the incentives provided through the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);
- (iv) A programme is being implemented for modernization of Powerloom Service Centers (PSC) by the upgradation of their looms so as to provide training and skills to powerloom weavers to operate modernized equipment;
- (v) A scheme for Computer Aided Design Centre in Powerloom Service Centres is being implemented to provide necessary design inputs into powerloom production.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, again, a very casual and self contradictory reply has been given by the Government. Sir, the textile industry accounts for four per cent of our GDP; one-third of our export earnings, which is close to ten billion dollars. The total fabric produced in the country during 1999-2000 was 38,000 square million metres, out of which is 76 per cent was produced by the powerloom sector. Sir, there are 16 lakh powerlooms in the organized as well as unorganized sector. The Government, in its reply, has given a very casual reply to this very

important question. Sir, we are heading for a multi-fibre agreement that would cease in the year 2005. The imports would be freely allowed. The whole world is looking at the powerloom industry to replace our exports from India. They want to substitute. What are we doing? We are doing nothing. Sir, the Government, in its reply, has stated that we have taken certain steps. The main bottleneck which I wanted to mention, has been identified by them. They have mentioned that one of the main reasons for the suffering of the powerloom sector is low technology, poor quality, poor productivity, and poor infrastructure in quality control, power tariff, designs and so on. The Government has not mentioned any of these things in the reply. They have not stated as to what they are doing on the infrastructure side. What can we expect of them? My first supplementary is this. What are they doing for improving infrastructure facilities for the powerloom sector?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Sir, first of all, I would like to clarify that there is no contradiction in my reply. The hon. Member is right in saying that we are heading towards phasing out of the multi-fibre agreement. The Government is going ahead very cautiously and speedily to meet the challenge of the post-MFA regime. So far as export of fibre, garments and all other textile items is concerned, the Government is taking several steps. The hon. Member has correctly stated that there is obsolete and low technology machinery and there is no infrastructure facility available. The first step which we have taken is, we have decided to replace the obsolete and low technology machinery. The Government and the Ministry of Textiles has launched...*(Interruptions)*. I am coming to your point.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, infrastructure does not cover modernisation of plant and machinery. Infrastructure covers something else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: To replace the obsolete and low technology machinery, the Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. The Government has received very good response from the industry. So far as the infrastructure facilities are concerned, as you know, Sir, powerloom is a State subject. It is the

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responsibility of the State Government. Recently, we held an All India Conference of Textile Ministers of different States. We also emphasised that the day has come when we have to improve the scope of infrastructure and also provide a stable supply of power at an affordable rate. We have also suggested having a uniform power policy. Moreover, we have opened in various States of the country Powerloom Service Stations and Computer-Aided Design Centres. We have opened 44 Powerloom Service Centres. We have also taken up one programme to upgrade the powerloom service centres which would cost Rs. 16 crores. So far as replacement of technology is concerned, recently the hon. Finance Minister has announced a textile package and under this package we have decided to increase the number of shuttleless looms. At present, only 10,000 shuttleless looms are there in our country. We want to increase the number to 50,000. We do not have sufficient automatic shuttleless looms in our country. About 40,000 automatic/semi-automatic looms are there. We want to increase this number to 2,50,000. So, we are taking some steps to provide this infrastructural facility to this sector.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, the Textile Upgradation Fund was created on April 1, 1999 with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 crores. The Minister says that the hon. Finance Minister has provided Rs. 16 crores for upgradation in this Budget. What a joke! What are you talking?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: This is upgradation of Powerloom Service Station. The Technology Upgradation Fund is a different thing.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: You need Powerloom Service Station when there are powerlooms, when there are units. When there are no units, what will you repair, what service will you expect? So, you created this corpus of Rs. 25,000 crores on 1st April, 1999. Till today nothing has been done. No disbursement has been done in the powerloom sector. And they are talking about an industry which is very important, which gives employment to millions of people and which generates billions of dollars of foreign exchange through

exports. Nothing has been done. Sir, applications for loan are pending and the money is not being disbursed. I would like to know, through my second supplementary, how many applications are pending, how much have they provided to the powerloom sector for upgradation. Although my first supplementary has not been replied, I do not want to pursue it further because I know you cannot reply. You can't do anything. But on the second supplementary, at least, you can do something. And you, please, give me the statistics while replying.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Sir, I want to say very humbly to my friend that so far as the Technology Upgradation Fund is concerned, your observation that the Government is doing nothing, is totally baseless and untrue. I will give you the figures. Sir, we received 1047 applications as on 28th February, 2001. The total cost of projects is Rs. 11770.8 crores. Out of this, we have already sanctioned Rs. 4318 crores. Out of 1047 applications, we have cleared 843 applications.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: You please talk about the powerloom sector. Please, do not mix up the three issues. How many applications have you received in the powerloom sector? How much loan has been sanctioned and how much money has been disbursed for upgradation?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Sir, so far as Powerloom is concerned, we received 47 applications. The Government has made sanctions in respect of 42 applications. Sir, there was a disbursement of Rs. 11 crores to the powerloom sector. *(Interruptions)* Let me finish my reply. Sir, so far as the powerloom sector is concerned, the Government is also concerned about it. We want to increase the number of applications in this regard. A seminar was organised in the Office of the Textile Commissioner in which small powerloom-holders from different parts of the country took part. *(Interruptions)* Not only that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt the Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Not only that; District Industries Offices in the States also collect applications from the powerloom-

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holders. In addition, branches of IDBI, SIDBI and other co-operative banks also try to get more and more applications from small powerloom-holders. It shows that we are also very keen to spread out the assistance from the TUF among small powerloom-holders.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have given Rs. 30 crores out of the Rs. 25,000 crore Technical Development Fund. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; you have already put two supplementaries. Now, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly mentioned that textiles constitute approximately one-third of the export earnings of the country and is identified as a major thrust area for exports, in the National Textile Policy. Sir, I have a specific question to ask of the hon. Minister. Is he aware of the fact that because of the imposition of Central Excise Duty on branded garments in this year's Budget, the export prospects of textiles from our country are going to be adversely affected? If so, what is the Ministry of Textiles planning to do that this thing does not happen?

The second thing that I do wish to bring to the Minister's notice is that Assam happens to be a State which produces all the three types of silk, namely, mooga, aeri and tussar. Would the hon. Minister consider the establishment of a special economic zone for the North-Eastern Region, laying emphasis on the development of the silk sector, particularly the garment sector in Assam?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Sir, so far as the imposition of Excise Duty on garment is concerned, my Ministry has taken up this matter with the Ministry of Finance. I am hopeful that steps would be taken in the right direction.

So far as the different varieties of silk of Assam are concerned, Sir, we are taking some concrete steps not only to sustain our silk production but also to increase the production of silk in Assam. Sir, sericulture activities are confined mostly to the hilly areas of Assam. We have taken up special programmes for that. We know that mooga

and eri are the main products of Assam. I would like to inform the House that the Government is taking some steps in this regard. If necessary, some more steps would also be taken.

श्री रूमन्दला रामचन्द्रैया: सभापति जी, उदारीकरण के साथ-साथ विश्व बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा भी बढ़ गई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आंध्र प्रदेश में कॉटन, सिल्क, वूल, टस्सर, ये चार रॉ-मेटीरियल मिलने पर भी पावरलूम बंद हैं और पावरलूम के लोग करीमनगर और सिरिसिल्ला प्रांत में रोज़ आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। तो एक तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कदम उठाने वाली है?

इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि बुनकरों के लिए मार्किटिंग फेसिलिटी में इससे पहले 50 साल तक उनको 20 परसेंट रिबेट मिलता था, उसको निकालकर उन पर अन्याय किया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी के पास उनको सुविधा देने के लिए क्या प्लान है, कृपया वे बताएं?

श्री काशी राम राणा: सभापति जी, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि आंध्र प्रदेश में खासकर हथकरघा और पावरलूम से वहां के लोग रोज़गारी हासिल करते हैं। वहां हथकरघा के लिए सरकार ने जो स्कीम बनाई है—दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन योजना, इसके तहत करीब 20 करोड़ की योजना हमें मिली। सिरिसिल्ला और करीमनगर में अभी सुसाइडल केसिस हुए हैं। हथकरघा के लिए हमें जो भी स्कीम भेजी गई है, वे स्कीम पहले भी हमने सैंक्शन की है और यह दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन योजना भी हम मंजूर करेंगे और उसकी इंस्टालमेंट हमें देनी पड़ेगी और उसको देने के लिए हमने आलरेडी कह दिया है।

जहां तक पावरलूम का सवाल है, जो इंसिडेंट हुआ है, वे जानते हैं कि इसके लिए और भी कारण हैं, और भी वजह है, लेकिन फिर भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट जो स्टैप अभी ले रही है वहां पर, उसमें भी हम उनकी सहायता कर रहे हैं और पावरलूम के लिए अभी जब एक डेलिगेशन हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी से मिला, हमारे मिनिस्टर भी उनके साथ थे, उसमें हमने कहा है कि पावरलूम के लिए अगर वहां कोई जरूरत हुई, हम उसके बारे में सोचेंगे। हमारे राज्य मंत्री जी भी वहां जाने वाले हैं, जिस वजह से वहां पर केसिस हुए हैं, उन्हें देखा जाएगा और इसके अलावा अगर पावरलूम डेवलपमेंट के लिए, रोज़गारी निर्माण के लिए कोई व्यवस्था चाहिए होगी तो हम अवश्य उसके बारे में सोचेंगे।

श्री रूमन्दला रामचन्द्रैया: सर, मार्किटिंग के बारे में नहीं बताया।

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, I would like to add just one point to what my hon. friend has said. रिसेटली वेंकैया नायडु के साथ एक

डेलिगेशन में प्रधान मंत्री जी ने आश्वासन दिया कि वे इमिजिएटली एक मंत्री को डिप्यूट करेंगे और अखबार में 45 करोड़ रुपया रिलीज़ करने के बारे में समाचार आया था। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि Whether it has been released and whether any Minister has visited those districts?

श्री काशी राम राणा: सर, जैसा मैंने बताया, हमारे माननीय राज्य मंत्री, श्री धनंजय कुमार जी 29 को जा रहे हैं। जो फिगर बताया गया है, उस बारे में मैं इतना कहूंगा कि हथकरघा के बारे में जो स्कीमें सैक्शन कर दी गई थीं, उनमें 10 करोड़ हमने रिलीज़ कर दिया है और जो दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन योजना हमें मिली है, जो कि 20 करोड़ की स्कीम है, उसमें जो हमारा सैंटर का शेयर है, वह भी हम रिलीज़ करने जा रहे हैं।

डा० अलादी पी० राजकुमार: टोटल कितने करोड़ रुपए रिलीज़ करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री काशी राम राणा: 20 करोड़ की वह ऐस्टिमेटिड स्कीम है, 20.5 भी हो सकता है। मेरी जानकारी है कि दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन योजना के तहत हमें उनकी योजना मिली है और हमने उसको स्कूटनाइज़ करने के लिए भेज दिया है और उसके बाद जो भी हमारा सैंटर का शेयर होगा, वह हम दे देंगे।

श्री रूमन्दला रामचन्द्रैया: सभापति जी, मैंने मार्किटिंग फेसिलिटी के बारे में प्रश्न पूछा था, मंत्री जी उसका जवाब नहीं दे रहे।

डा० अलादी पी० राजकुमार: सर, इन्होंने रिबेट के बारे में सवाल पूछा था।

श्री काशी राम राणा: जहां तक रिबेट का सवाल है और मार्किटिंग की व्यवस्था का सवाल है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पहले जो रिबेट मिलता था उससे ज्यादा रिबेट हम उन्हें दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन योजना में दे रहे हैं—पहले 4 परसेंट था, अभी 6, 8, 10 परसेंट तक उनको मिलता है। मैं एक बात और भी कहना चाहूंगा कि चाहे पावरलूम हो, हथकरघा हो या हैंडिक्राफ्ट हो, हमारे संविधान में यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट होते हुए भी हम उसमें अपना ज्यादा से ज्यादा फंड देते हैं लेकिन कभी-कभी स्टेट शेयर नहीं होने की वजह से इंस्टालमेंट रिलीज़ नहीं होती।

श्री रूमन्दला रामचन्द्रैया: सभापति महोदय, इससे पहले 20 परसेंट रिबेट दिया जाता था, इन्होंने 10 परसेंट करके, 6 परसेंट करके बुनकरों का गला घोट दिया है। अब हथकरघा के लिए बुनकर जो वस्त्र तैयार करता है, वह मार्केट में नहीं बिक रहा है। इसलिए बुनकर लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मार्केट में इन वस्त्रों को बेचने के लिए पहले हमारे देश में जो व्यवस्था थी 20 परसेंट रिबेट की, उसे दोबारा

शुरू किया जाए, तभी बुनकरों को कुछ फायदा हो सकता है। मंत्री जी गलत-सलत जवाब देते हैं ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a reply that an amount of Rs. 25,000 crores has been allocated for upgradation of the textile industry. This is for upgradation of skills, modernisation of textile industries and also for VRS. I would like to know, particularly, how much money has been spent by the Ministry on VRS, modernisation and also on skill upgradation. I request the hon. Minister to give the figures separately.

Part (b) of my supplementary is: Whether it is a fact that out of the 117 NTC mills, the Government has already decided to close down 77 mills from April this year. If it is so, it will result in loss of employment to about 60,000 workers. I would like to know what action plan the Government has to give relief to the workers.

And part (c) is: whether the Government will consider giving financial assistance to Orissa Textile Mill and OCL of Chaudwar for their revival.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Sir, so far as the NTC mills are concerned, I would like to inform the House that the Government, a few days ago, submitted an approach paper or formula to the BIFR and the Supreme Court. According to this formula, the Government would like to run the maximum number of NTC mills. So, a unit-wise viability formula has been evolved. Under this formula, the Government will follow whatever decision given by the BIFR. But, at the same time, the Government would like to run the maximum number of NTC mills.

So far as the mills in Orissa are concerned, just a couple of days ago, the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Patnaik came to Delhi and requested for opening of the sick mills. Based on the Viability Report of the TRAS—I informed the Chief Minister—the Government will take a decision after the final decision by the BIFR.

As far as VRS is concerned, whenever any case comes before the Ministry, we always dispose it of in favour of our workers.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, money that has been allocated is for modernisation and skill upgradation but the same has been diverted to VRS. They are spending for VRS. अपग्रेडेशन ऑफ स्किल्स और माडर्नाइजेशन पर पैसा खर्च नहीं होता है, सिर्फ VRS पर खर्च होता है, अपग्रेडेशन और माडर्नाइजेशन पर पैसा खर्च नहीं होता है।

श्री काशी राम राणा: माडर्नाइजेशन के लिए तो तभी धन उपलब्ध होगा जब BIFR का डिसीजन आएगा, तभी माडर्नाइजेशन होगा।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: सभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश एक बहुत बड़ा राज्य है लेकिन वहां का वस्त्र उद्योग बिल्कुल चौपट हो चुका है। वहां हथकरघा, पावरलूम और वस्त्र उद्योग बिल्कुल चौपट हो गया है। अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि हमारे निर्यात का बहुत बड़ा अंश यानी 1/3 अंश वस्त्र निर्यात से आता है। इसमें उत्तर प्रदेश का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा रहता था लेकिन अब वह कम हो गया है। इस बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी क्या कर रहे हैं? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि निर्यात के मामले में और विशेष रूप से वस्त्रों के निर्यात के मामले में WTO तथा अन्य देशों की पाबंदियों के कारण आपका निर्यात जो बढ़ सकता है, क्या उसमें कमी आ रही है?

श्री काशी राम राणा: सर, चाहे यू०पी० हो, चाहे बिहार हो या देश का कोई स्टेट हो जिन्होंने भी सरकारी स्कीम की योजना भेजी है हमने अपने नार्म्स के मुताबिक योजना मंजूर की, न सिर्फ मंजूर की बल्कि जब-जब हमारे पास उनका यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट आया तब-तब हमने फंड रिलीज किया ही है। हां, यह हो सकता है कि यूटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट न भेजने की वजह से उनको सही समय पर फंड उपलब्ध नहीं हुआ हो। सर, एक और भी निर्यात के बारे में हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल उठाया है कि मल्टीफाइबर एग्रीमेंट जब फेज-आउट होगा तब निर्यात की स्थिति क्या होगी। तो सर, आज सारे विश्व में अच्छी क्वालिटी और एफोर्डेबिल प्राइस या रीजनेबिल प्राइस वाला ही माल चलेगा। जैसा मैंने कहा कि यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट होते हुए भी भारत सरकार इसकी क्वालिटी सुधारने के साथ-साथ उसकी कॉस्ट कम हो इसके लिए राज्य सरकार से पावर सप्लाई के लिए कहती है और जो भी उसका इनपुट होगा वह इनपुट वहां से आएगा। तो इसके लिए जब-जब भी जरूरत हुई तो भारत सरकार ने स्टेप्स लिए हैं।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: श्रीमन् आप उनको बिजली देंगे नहीं, सामान देंगे नहीं और जो उनकी आवश्यकता है उसको पूरा नहीं करेंगे और कह रहे हैं कि दुनिया के दूसरे देशों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा करें। जहां उच्च टेक्नालाजी है, हर वक्त बिजली मिलती है, हर वक्त सारा सामान उनको मिलता है उससे आप प्रतिस्पर्धा करना चाहते हैं जबकि आपके यहां ये सहूलियतें हैं नहीं। आप उन्हें समय से कर्ज नहीं देते, उन्हें बिजली नहीं देते। तो इस पर माननीय मंत्री महोदय को विचार करना चाहिए।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सर, यह एक अहम सवाल है। (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this question has taken half an hour. Please sit down. The questions are long, the answers are long, the interpretations are long; there are reinterpretations which are long; but the real essence of this question is the same, as everyone has listened. So, there is no need for further questions on this. (*Interruptions*)

Now, let us take up the next question.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सर, (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, पांच क्वेश्चन हो गए और आधा घंटा हो गया।

Jewels of former royal houses of India in foreign capitals

*562. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jewels belonging to former Royal Houses of India were taken out of the country and disposed of in foreign capitals after Independence; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal with Government to recover these jewels in view of their historical significance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government have no specific information whether any of the former royal families have disposed off jewellery and such other antiquities in violation of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I draw the attention of the Government to the disclosures made by Jhon Adamson and Catherine Prayer in their book, 'Maharajas' Jewels', in which they have disclosed about the jewels of Indian royal houses in foreign countries. Sir, it is strange that the Government is not aware that the rare collection of Brazilian emeralds, South African Diamonds and Kashmiri sapphires taken away from India are in Rome, Paris and London. Sir, nothing has been established so far on the magnificent collection of jewels by Sitadevi, the former Maharani, the ruler of Baroda, who died in France. Does the Government know about the ancient jewels of Tukojirao, the third Holkar of